

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. The present application is being concurrently filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

Substance of Interview

Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during the personal interview conducted in this application on 5 December 2005. During the interview, the subject matter to which the pending claims were directed, the citations of record, and proposed claim amendments were discussed. In particular, it was agreed that amendments to the claims as set forth in the present paper patentably define over the citations of record.

Traversal

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-34, 5-55, and 60-74 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 68 and 72 are the independent claims.

Claims 3, 5, 75 and 76 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 4, 6, 68 and 72 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 5, 29-34, 50-52, 54, 66-76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ijima et al. further considered with either Opheij et al., Tobita et al., or Gutin. Claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 29, 30, 50-52, 60-61, 66-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Izumi et al. further considered with Opheij et al. or Tobita et al. Claims 3, 5, 9-15, 20, 22-24, 26, 31, 33, 52 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izumi et al. and Opheij et al. or Tobita et al. in further view of Shindo. Claims 4, 6-8, 19, 21, 25, 27, 32, 34, 53 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izumi et al. and Opheij et al. or Tobita et al. in further view of Masakado. Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Izumi et al. and Opheij et al. or Tobita et al. in further view of Nakai. Claims 62, 63, and 65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izumi et al. and Opheij et al. or Tobita et al. in further view of Shimamo et al. Claim 64 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izumi et al. and Opheij et al. or Tobita et al. and further in view of Ohba. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 73 now recite, inter alia, that a light detecting device includes a switch selectively outputting first and second detection signals to first and second detecting portions (of a signal processor), respectively.

Independent claim 68 recites a similar feature in method form.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the citations of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 1, 68, and 73 for at least the reasons discussed during the personal interview of 5 December 2005.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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